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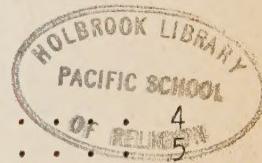
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CCIA Head Comments on Russian Church Action

(Buck Hill Falls) - The decision of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church to apply for membership in the World Council of Churches represents a major advance in the ecumenical movement and in the furtherance of the "Christian witness to the world of nations in behalf of peace with justice and freedom".

This point was made clear at the annual meeting of the WCC's US Conference here by Dr. O. Frederick Nolde, director of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, a joint agency of the WCC and the International Missionary Council.

At the same time, Dr. Nolde emphasized that he did not underestimate the problems to be anticipated by the Russian Church's move to affiliate with the World Council. But "while the problems may be tough", he added, "the stakes are high".

"The issues which divide the world literally into two armed camps cannot be resolved by war", he said. "The impasse of today will not be broken by recourse to nuclear warheads and guided missiles because their contribution at best lies in mutual deterrence and their most constructive use will be found in balanced dismantling as soon as sufficient confidence makes that possible."

"There is a far better chance that differences will be reconciled and the impasse broken by cementing personal and group relationships across all frontiers", he continued. "This was a position which representatives of the World Council of Churches took in insisting that delegates from communist countries be admitted to the United States for the Evanston Assembly (of the WCC in 1954) ..."

"It is a good thing - I say it unhesitatingly in the context of our concern for world peace with justice and freedom - that the Holy Orthodox Church of Russia has applied for membership in the World Council of Churches and I trust that its application will command a solid affirmative vote", he declared.

At the core of the developing problems, he pointed out, are the competing claims of Christian unity and witness as manifested in the WCC.

"It is to be expected that, as the membership of the World Council of Churches becomes more inclusive and more diverse, the problem of a unified witness becomes more difficult", he said.

"Fully recognizing the complexity of the international problems we face, the difficulty in securing completely reliable information, and the consequent demand for humility in speech and act, I would nevertheless hold that unity in the World Council of Churches cannot be won or maintained at the price of witness", he said.

"The checks and balances which a Christian witness to the nations can find in the ecumenical perspective, while in no sense complete or fool-proof, offer a strong argument for an inclusive and diverse membership in the World Council of Churches."

Dr. Nolde noted that there are six areas where "unity and fellowship may be disturbed by differences in the substance of a witness to the world of nations or by the manner in which that witness is made".

The six points which Dr. Nolde cited as illustrative rather than exhaustive follow:

One - The ideology of Marxist communism must be opposed but victory is neither possible nor should it be sought by military force. He noted that the WCC has taken the position that totalitarianism "is false in doctrine and dangerous in practice" in whatever form it may take. "Serious as this fundamental ideological conflict is, it cannot be resolved by military action", he added. "The very nature of the struggle demands peaceful competition."

Two - Justice and responsible freedom should find expression in domestic societies, but no economic or political system can be designated as exclusively Christian or even distinctively Christian. Recognizing that it is natural for any country to seek to export its form of society to other countries, Dr. Nolde said such efforts are permissible if "fair methods are used", but he indicated that international peace is better served "if we left the choice fully to the country concerned and leaned over backwards in our efforts not to use pressure".

Three - An open domestic society is an essential ingredient of a good international society, but where citizens are free by conscience to commend or to criticize governmental policy and action, their first responsibility is to put their own house in order. Citing the example of the John Birch

Society in the US "to see a communist threat in every shadow", Dr. Nolde warned that "where freedom exists it should not be abused but constructively exercised".

Four - The significance of attaching differing meanings to such words as peace, democracy, disarmament, and colonialism should not be overlooked but every effort should be made progressively to give them common context. He noted that "the continuous repetition of vague generalities may become meaningless or even jeopardize the desired objectives".

Five - A system of liberation by infiltration and subversion threatens national independence and international peace but economic imperialism also imposes a yoke upon people and their efforts to throw it off may involve local conflicts with the ever-present danger of large-scale war. Dr. Nolde cited as a form of imperialism the distinctive method developed by Soviet Russia to "take advantage of situations where widespread resentment and dissatisfaction have arisen". But he also pointed out that, while the US has given "fabulous sums" to assist needy countries, it "cannot escape the onus of exploitation in the past", since present events testify "that the economic sins of the fathers are visited upon their children even to the third and fourth generations".

Six - Any effort to weaken the United Nations, for example by destroying the international and independent character of the Secretariat, must be resisted, but at the same time the equal right of every member state, whether large or small, to play its part in the world community must be respected. Dr. Nolde warned that efforts to project the requirement of unanimity or the veto into the UN Secretariat "would surely contribute to impotence". But he also argued that "the cry for greater parity in the decisions of the United Nations should not go unheeded", although this "requires an approach on a broader base than merely the East-West struggle and must take into account all the member states".

EPS, Geneva

WCC Seen as God's "Greatest Challenge" to Christians

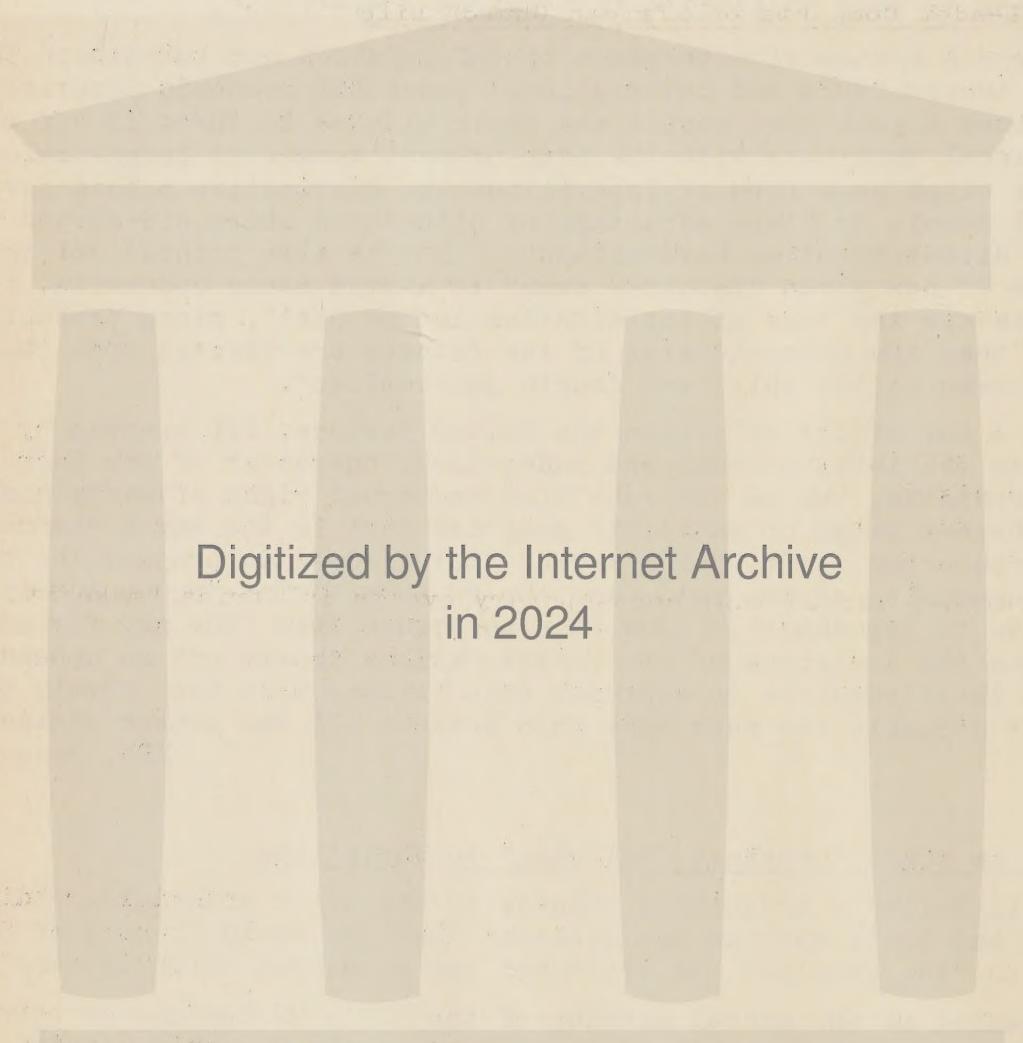
(Buck Hill Falls) - Archbishop Iakovos of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America has declared that the World Council of Churches represents "the greatest challenge God has presented to Christians".

Speaking at the annual meeting of the WCC's US Conference here, the archbishop noted that the three dimensions of the Church's mission - communion, service and witness - "are not merely slogans, but the diagram of God's plan to save the world".

"The World Council of Churches comes within that plan", said the primate, who is one of the six WCC presidents. "Let us find and determine our place in it."

Archbishop Iakovos further noted that the ecumenical movement can "easily become a task force of the universal Church". Then he added:

"It is the God-given spiritual weapon to destroy the strongholds of disunity and division, of secularism and atheism, and of temporality and self-complacency.



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"It is powerful enough to initiate the new creation, to bring into fruition the unfulfilled prayer of our fathers, to justify the vision and the labours of true and dedicated ecumenical workers, to translate hope into reality for all who believe in the Risen Lord, to fill the world with the blessing of unity which we have prayed and longed for since the schism and the Reformation."

EPS, Geneva

Nigerian Leader Comments on African Church Life

(Buck Hill Falls) - The Rev. E.A. Adegbola, principal of the Methodist Laymen's Training Institute in Shagamu, Nigeria, told the annual meeting of the US Conference of the World Council of Churches here that Christianity's identification with western culture poses critical problems for spreading the faith in contemporary Africa.

Mr. Adegbola said the African church is confronted with the problem of proclaiming the Gospel in such a way that it is not viewed "simply as an ingredient of a foreign civilization which a man may or may not adopt for himself, but as the Word of God, the word which demands a verdict, a Yes or No from man to God".

Pointing to the major difficulty of avoiding the tendency of proclaiming the Gospel as an alternative to Communism, Mr. Adegbola noted that when such an alternative is offered Jesus Christ is placed on the same pedestal with Karl Marx, and the Kingdom of God is equated with the era of the proletariat.

He further warned that contemporary events in Africa "make it imperative for the church in any land to be unafraid in dissociating the last vestiges of colonialism from the will of God as known in Jesus Christ".

Observing that Africans are now selecting more carefully what they should accept from abroad, Mr. Adegbola noted that this situation is "fraught with dangers for the expansion and growth of Christianity, especially as Christianity has previously been regarded as an aspect of European civilization".

While the African nations consider their own self-government meaningless unless they can use their position and influence in world politics to free their brethren under the rule of other nations, Mr. Adegbola pointed out that one of the "dreadful traits" of African Christian piety is to substitute "fatalism for faith".

"The Christian doctrine of mission is a great corrective for fatalistic resignation in the face of captivity, injustice and inhumanity", he concluded.

EPS, Geneva

Dr. Fisher Says Whole World Interested in Christian Unity

(Dublin) - The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Geoffrey Francis Fisher, told delegates to the half-yearly meeting of the British Council of Churches here that the entire world is interested in the cause of Christian unity.

Speaking at the opening session of the council's first meeting in the Republic of Ireland, Dr. Fisher noted such interest is becoming evident even among non-Christian religious bodies.

"All are caught up in the feeling that there is something in Christian unity of commanding importance not only for religion but for the world", the archbishop said.

"In all this pursuit of unity", he said, "I am sure that to draw a line between theological and non-theological is wrong, but the whole point is which of the theological points matter very much to God and which do not. When we get down to that level we are really approaching the point at which the churches will find each (other) in a fuller unity."

In another address, Dr. Fisher referred to the tentative moves that had been made towards union among some non-Catholic bodies, and remarked:

"The first thing that has come out of the discussions of recent years is that we of the Free Churches, the Church of England, and the Church of Scotland can talk about our deepest beliefs without embarrassment.

"When I visited the Pope in Rome all I was concerned about was to try to start some relationship in which we could talk with the Roman Catholics without embarrassment", he continued. "At present in many countries the conversation is polite or frigid or rude - or all three. The first Christian step is to learn to speak to one another without embarrassment."

The council's general secretary, the Rev. Kenneth Slack, welcomed the new opportunities for a dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and other communions "which are committed to the belief that fellowship in work, thought and service need not await full doctrinal agreement".

"That is why we must welcome the well-nigh certain prospect that there will be official observers from the Roman Catholic Church at the forthcoming Assembly of the World Council of Churches in New Delhi", he added.

The council directed its international department to study whether a statement should be issued on the necessity of admitting China to the United Nations "if world peace is to be promoted".

In making the suggestion that the department consider the matter, the Rev. G.M. Dryburg of the Church of Scotland pointed out that the church in China is undergoing severe persecution and the problem could be discussed directly if the government was represented at the UN.

A special committee was appointed by the council to consider a successor to the Archbishop of Canterbury as its president. Dr. Fisher, who has held the post since 1945, will retire from the See of Canterbury on May 31. He will continue to serve as president of the BCC until its autumn meeting in London.

EPS, Geneva

Lutheran Theologians Re-define Confirmation Significance

(Loccum, Germany) - Forty Lutheran theologians and Christian educators from 12 countries have agreed that full and complete membership in the Church comes through baptism alone.

In taking the stand, participants in the International Seminar on Confirmation sponsored by the Lutheran World Federation took issue with the view that confirmation signifies an adolescent's admission to "full" and "adult" membership in the Church.

Rejecting the interpretation that confirmation "completes what was begun in baptism", the theologians stressed that Lutherans interpret confirmation as simply a "baptismal remembrance" - a reminder to both the confirmand and the congregation before which he stands - of what happened to them on the day of baptism.

They contrasted this theological concept with that of Roman Catholicism on the one hand, which sees confirmation as completing the grace of baptism, and with that of certain Protestants on the other, which belittles baptism by over-emphasizing the later personal confession of faith.

They acknowledged that the Lutheran position as they defined it weakened the traditionally strong tie between confirmation and admission to Holy Communion, since every baptized child is entitled to commune, at least theoretically.

They noted that in practice the Church could refrain from giving boys and girls their first communion until they had been adequately instructed as to its meaning. But some advocated that the first communion age should be around eight or ten instead of on completion of confirmation preparation at 15.

The seminar was organized by the LWF Commission on Education with the cooperation of the Commission on Theology. It was part of a five-year study on confirmation in which the former is engaged at the request of the federation's Minneapolis Assembly of 1957.

It is to be completed in time for a final report to be given at the Helsinki Assembly in 1963. In this connection, the lectures and findings of the Loccum seminar will be circulated to a wider circle for study.

Meanwhile, the Commission on Education decided here, at a meeting held in connection with the seminar, to pursue its broader study work by organizing an international conference on Christian education in Denmark near the time of the Helsinki Assembly. A similar conference was arranged in the United States in connection with the 1957 Assembly.

The 1963 gathering is to give special attention to the Christian education problems of the younger churches.

EPS, Geneva

2000 Expected at North American Youth Assembly

(New York) - More than 2,000 young people, including some 200 from overseas, are expected to attend the North American Ecumenical Youth Assembly which will be held on the campus of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, August 16-23.

The Assembly will bring together Christian young people from about 40 different Protestant and Orthodox communions in the United States and Canada. It is one of a series of regional ecumenical conferences being held around the world. The first was conducted in Lausanne, Switzerland, last July.

Sponsors of the event are the youth departments of the World Council of Churches and of the World Council of Christian Education, the Committee on Young People's Work of the Canadian Council of Churches, and the United Christian Youth Movement of the National Council of Churches (USA).

Fifteen national denominational youth organizations will meet simultaneously. Each group will hold its annual planning sessions in the afternoons and participate in the morning and evening sessions of the Assembly.

While some 200 young people will come from Europe, Africa, Asia and South America, the majority of the North American youth will be official delegates from their own denominational organizations. Observers will be present from groups that "wish to share in the Assembly but for one reason or another cannot send formal delegations".

A selected number of state Christian youth council leaders, and representatives of church-related agencies will be present. The International Society of Christian Endeavour, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the USA, Campfire Girls, the YMCA and YWCA organizations of the US and Canada, and the Ministry to Armed Forces Personnel will also be represented.

The programme will be built around the theme "Entrusted with the Message of Reconciliation" (II Corinthians 5 and 6). The three sub-themes are "The World We Live In", "The Gospel We Live Under", and "The Mission of the Church".

Distinguished Christians from all over the world will lead the daily services of worship and intercession. Dr. George Johnston, principal of the United Theological College at McGill University, Montreal, Canada, will conduct the daily Bible study sessions. One of the major speakers at the evening sessions will be U Kyaw Than, a Burmese Christian and associate general secretary of the East Asia Christian Conference.

A special feature of the assembly will be original dramatic productions, especially commissioned to raise provocative questions relevant to the gathering. These will be under the direction of Robert Seaver of Union Theological Seminary in New York.

EPS, Geneva

Pacific Church Leaders Meet in West Samoa

(Apia, West Samoa) - A conference of church leaders from all over the Pacific islands has for the first time been held in this area.

While observers from London were able to make the trip in three days, some participants in the first Conference of Churches and Missions in the Pacific travelled for about a month to reach the Malua Theological College near Apia, where the sessions were held.

The conference, held under the auspices of the International Missionary Council, brought together 74 representatives of churches and missions of six denominations from Samoa, Cook Island, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Niue, Nauru, New Caledonia, Tahiti, Caroline and Marshall Islands, New Hebrides, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Fiji, and three territories of New Guinea.

Participants from some areas pointed out that their traditional communal life is so strong that its values, its structures, and its divisions are also those of the church, which includes more than 90 percent of the population.

However, others contended that the old patterns have been broken down as a result of education and migration. "The Coconut Curtain has been opened and things in the islands will never be the same again", said Bernard Thorogood of the Cook Islands. "Yet the islanders who have lost

the security of the past are bewildered by the future and its greater freedom."

Agreeing with this assessment, Samuel Raapoto of Tahiti contended that the church must give more guidance to parents in bringing up children in this new climate, while Ta Upu Pere of the Cook Islands maintained that young people should be accepted into church life on a basis of equality and respect.

The Rev. Hans-Ruedi Weber, executive secretary of the World Council of Churches' Department on the Laity, expressed the concern that the church put more stress on establishing right relationships between men and less on internal business matters.

Chairman of the conference was Dr. S.A. Havea of Tonga. EPS, Geneva

"Deaconal Year" Appeal Draws 4,000 German Youth

(Berlin) - More than 4,000 West German youth have thus far responded to an appeal by various regional Evangelical churches to serve a "deaconal year" in hospitals and other charitable institutions operated by the churches.

Almost all of West Germany's regional Protestant churches have made the "deaconal year" project a permanent part of their charitable and social programme. It was originally initiated because of the acute lack of welfare workers and deaconesses both in Evangelical Home Mission institutions and parish organizations.

The volunteers, many of whom have expressed their determination to take up welfare and charitable professions as a career, receive free board, pocket money and a clothing allowance during their year of service.

The youth receive preliminary training in a deaconess training centre and are then assigned to nurseries, homes for children and the aged, as well as to hospitals and welfare centres.

The plan was first introduced in the Evangelical Church of the Rhine-land in 1956. Since then, it has spread to several other European countries, including Holland, Switzerland and Austria. EPS, Geneva

Dr. Paul Minear Joins WCC Headquarters Staff

(Geneva) - Dr. Paul S. Minear, professor of Biblical theology at Yale Divinity School, has been appointed director of the World Council of Churches' Commission on Faith and Order. He will assume his new post at WCC headquarters here on July 1.

Dr. Minear has been granted a leave of absence by Yale University to head the three-member department which deals with matters of doctrinal differences between churches and organizational barriers to Christian unity. He will also direct the activities of the 100-member commission, composed of outstanding theologians and church leaders from all parts of the world.

Dr. Minear was secretary for study and programme of the North American Faith and Order Conference held at Oberlin, Ohio, in September, 1957. That conference brought together 300 US and Canadian church leaders and is considered a milestone in the search for Christian unity in North America.

He was also chairman of the committee which prepared the study material on the theme of the Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches to be held in New Delhi, India, November 18 - December 6.

Dr. Minear became professor of New Testament at Yale University Divinity School in 1956. He previously taught at Andover Newton Theological Seminary, Garrett Biblical Institute, and at the Hawaii School of Religion in Honolulu.

Long active in the ecumenical movement, Dr. Minear was a speaker at the International Missionary Conference at Willingen, Germany, in 1952; a delegate to the Lund (Sweden) Conference on Faith and Order, and consultant at the Evanston (Illinois) Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 1954.

Dr. Minear was a member of the International Missionary Council Study Commission on Missionary Motivation, the World Council of Churches' Study Commission on the Christian Doctrine of Work and Vocation, and the WCC Theological Commission on Christ and the Church.

Dr. Keith R. Bridston has served as executive secretary of the Faith and Order Department since 1957. He has resigned to direct a nationwide study of pre-seminary education in the United States. Serving as associate director of the project will be Dr. Dwight W. Culver, associate professor of sociology at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.

The study is being sponsored by the National Association of Biblical Instructors and the American Association of Theological Schools with the aid of a grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. EPS, Geneva

Pastor Junod Resigns from South African Penal Post

(Johannesburg) - A prominent Swiss pastor has resigned from his post as president of the South African League for Penal Reform because government authorities informed him that he could no longer minister among the Bantu and other inmates in the state prisons.

Pastor H.P. Junod was informed of the government's decision after returning to South Africa following five months' leave in Switzerland. He has been president of the league since it was founded 15 years ago, and has been working among the Bantu since 1920.

Pastor Junod told a Swiss correspondent in Johannesburg that he had been forbidden to visit condemned prisoners shortly after the Sharpeville incidents, although his Bantu colleagues were permitted to continue this work.

In a farewell message published in the league's bulletin, Pastor Junod pointed out that in his semi-official capacity, he has never expressed any opinions on the government's apartheid policy or other civil matters.

However, he observed that the government's racial policy has made it impossible for South Africa to take the lead in developing a new political and economic system on the continent, and its obstinacy in the matter is dangerous.

While recognizing what has been done for the Bantu on a material level, these efforts will be fruitless unless they are matched with human contacts between individuals and groups, he said.

Following his return to Switzerland early this month, Pastor Junod will become director of a new institution related to the University of Geneva for training African leaders. EPS, Geneva

Church Leaders Declare Kirchentag Not a "Party Rally"

(Berlin) - A statement issued by officials of the 10th biennial Kirchentag has made it clear that the German Church Day Congress, which will be held here in July, will in no way be a "party rally" for any political or ecclesiastical group.

Issuing the statement in an effort to quash rumours concerning the congress, Kirchentag leaders said it will provide an opportunity for "a frank and friendly encounter" among people of goodwill.

"The Kirchentag is a great gathering of Christians of every variety of political and social beliefs", the statement said. "We particularly wish to have at Berlin in 1961 a wide and varied representation from both Eastern and Western churches, visitors who will contribute their own opinions in the many formal and informal discussions of the week."

The church leaders noted that it was inevitable that some controversy should arise as to whether the Kirchentag should be held in Berlin or Leipzig. However, they added:

"What is much more serious is the suggestion now being made - particularly in some church circles outside Germany - that our Kirchentag organization and programme are, to a large extent, dominated by certain right-wing political opinions, and that those who do not share such opinions have no place in our next meetings at Berlin."

"This suggestion is completely false", they said, "and it is entirely contrary to the whole spirit of a Kirchentag".

The statement was signed by Dr. Kurt Scharf, chairman of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany; Dr. Reinold von Thadden-Trieglaff, Kirchentag president; Mark Gibbs, chairman of the Kirchentag Ecumenical Committee; Pastor A. Freudenberg, chairman of the Ecumenical Preparatory Committee; Pastor Heinrich Giesen, Kirchentag general secretary, and Dr. H.H. Walz, organizing general secretary of the congress. EPS, Geneva

"Progressive" Pastors Seek Kirchentag Boycott

(Berlin) - Pastors and church members in East Germany are being urged to boycott the 10th Kirchentag - or German Church Day Congress - which will be held here in July.

The appeal for the boycott was issued by the Association of Protestant Pastors in East Germany. The so-called "progressive" pastors' organization, which is opposed to the Evangelical Church leadership, represents about 200 of the East Zone's 6,000 ministers.

In its appeal, the association contended that it was "extremely doubtful" whether Kirchentag officials would succeed in preventing "political abuses and political misrepresentation under the conditions existing in West Berlin".

The East German Government has attacked Kirchentag leaders for refusing its invitation for the congress to be held in Leipzig rather than Berlin. (See EPS No. 12). EPS, Geneva

Dr. Fisher Asks Anglicans to Pray for Vatican Council

(London) - The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Geoffrey Francis Fisher, has called upon members of the Church of England to pray that God will use the Second Vatican (Ecumenical) Council to promote the cause of Christian unity.

Dr. Fisher, who will retire from the See of Canterbury on May 31, made the request in his final presidential address to the Convocation of Canterbury here.

Pointing out that Pope John XXIII has called upon Catholics to offer prayers on behalf of the council between Ascension Day and Whitsunday, the archbishop commented:

"These days are often observed as days of special prayer for Christian unity, and I hope that many in the Church of England will pray at that time along with their brethren of the Church of Rome that this Vatican Council may be used of God not to hurt but to help, and to increase unity of spirit among all the churches that they may cooperate the more in spreading abroad the gospel of God, the glad tidings of reconciliation with Him."

EPS, Geneva

Catholic Prelate Praises Reformation Observance

(Edinburgh) - The Roman Catholic Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, Scotland, has praised the observances held last October marking the 400th anniversary of the Scottish Reformation for their contribution to the cause of Christian unity.

"Did we not look forward with dread and misgiving to the celebrations?", asked the archbishop in a recent published statement which has been widely reprinted in the Scottish press. "Many feared that it might be an occasion for a fresh out-burst of anti-Catholicism.

"The result was, in fact, a simple and very humble acknowledgement that things were not what they should be. Men did not look back in hatred and rancour; they looked forward in charity to a means of unity."

EPS, Geneva

Protestant-Roman Catholic Students Meet in Louvain

(Louvain) - Some 40 students and recent graduates from 25 countries and five continents gathered in Louvain, Belgium, last week under joint Roman Catholic-Protestant auspices to examine together the implications of modern scientific achievements for Christian witness. The meeting was sponsored by the World Student Christian Federation and Pax Romana, a Roman Catholic organization for students and intellectuals.

Discussions centred on the role of scientific research in accomplishing God's plan, and members of both organizations stressed the need for unconditional commitment on the part of Christians in order to bring the light of the Gospel into the technological revolution. They agreed also on the necessity of adapting the language and method of presentation of the Gospel in terms understandable to modern man.

Speakers at the four-day meeting included Pastor Bernard Morel and Father John Kaelin, O.P., both of Geneva, on "The Place of Science and Technique in the Plan of God"; Prof. Vladimir Iljine, of the Orthodox Institute of St. Sergius, Paris, on "Faith in the Life of the Scientist"; Pastor Heiko Rohrbach of Stuttgart and Mlle. Manuela da Silva, of Portugal, on "The Witness of Christian Graduates and Students" and Prof. Jean Ladrière, of Louvain, on "The Life of Faith and the Technical Mentality".

A statement issued jointly at the conclusion of the meeting said the sessions had been held in "the atmosphere of Christian brotherhood and charity which has always been characteristic of the relations between Pax Romana and the WSCF". Most of those who attended are studying or working in the scientific, technical fields or are theology students.

EPS, Geneva

In Brief

A Kirchentag or Church Day will be held in Hilversum, the Netherlands, on Ascension Day, May 11, by the 60,000-member Lutheran Church of the Netherlands. Theme of the all-day rally will be "To Rebuild His Church". Dutch Lutherans are grouped together in 66 congregations served by 60 pastors.

* * *

Dr. Edgar H.S. Chandler, former associate director of the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees of the World Council of Churches, has been awarded the Gold Cross of the Royal Order of George I by Decree of His Majesty King Paul of Greece. The presentation will be made to Dr. Chandler at the Greek Embassy in Washington, D.C. Dr. Chandler is the executive vice-president of the Church Federation of Greater Chicago and is the Religious Affairs Advisor of the United States Information Service (USIS).

* * *

According to sources in Rome a number of requests are said to have been addressed to the Pope recently by members of the hierarchy in Africa for the canonization of the 22 natives of Uganda who were put to death for their Christian faith during the last century. They were declared true martyrs and beatified by Benedict XV in 1920.

* * *

Dr. Hans W. Florin, 32-year old German theologian and African affairs expert, has been named assistant director of the Lutheran World Federation Department of World Mission. Dr. Florin, who is now serving as a parish assistant in Gütersloh, Westphalia, began his 18-month appointment on May 1.

EPS, Geneva